

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 40-44, 47-52, 76, 77 and 83-91 are in this case. Claims 40-44, 46, 47, 51, 52, 81 and 82 have been rejected under § 103(a). Dependent claim 47 has been rejected under § 112, second paragraph. Claims 48-50, 76, 77, 79 and 80 have been objected to. Claims 83-91 have been allowed.

The claims have now been amended to conform to the subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Specifically, independent claim 40 has now been amended to include the limitations of objected dependent claim 76, itself now canceled. Objected dependent claim 48 has been amended into independent form, incorporating the limitations of independent claim 40 and intervening claim 44. Dependent claims 42 and 47 have been canceled.

As a result of these amendments, the claims before the Examiner will be claims 40, 41, 43, 44, 48-52, 77 and 83-91. All claims have either already been allowed or now conform to subject matter indicated to be allowable. The application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 40 and 83 under 37 CFR 1.75(i) which requires each element or step of the claimed invention to separated by a line indentation.

In the present claim listing, the Applicant has subdivided claims 40 and 83 with line indentations to increase readability. The Applicant believes that this fully addresses the Examiner's objections.

§ 112, Second Paragraph Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner has stated that claim 47 recites a limitation “the channel”, and has found insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

While continuing to traverse the rejection, the Applicant has chosen, in order to expedite the prosecution, to cancel dependent claim 47 without prejudice. The cancellation of claim 47 renders moot the Examiner’s rejection under § 112, second paragraph.

§ 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 40-44, 46, 47, 51-52, 81-82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hausberger (W01990/15683) in view of Abel (US 2003/0211442). The Examiner’s rejections are respectfully traversed.

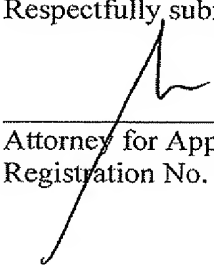
While continuing to traverse the Examiner's rejections, the Applicant has, in order to expedite the prosecution, chosen to amend the claims to conform to allowable subject matter identified by the Examiner.

Specifically, independent claim 40 has been amended to include the limitations of objected dependent claim 76, itself now canceled. The dependency of claim 77 has been amended. Dependent claim 42 has been canceled.

Similarly, objected dependent claim 48 has been amended into independent form, incorporating the limitations of independent claim 40 and intervening claim 44.

In view of the above amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims now correspond to subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be patentable, leaving independent claims 40, 48 and 83 and dependent claims 41, 43, 44, 49-52, 77 and 84-91 in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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